



Service Center

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Fresno County FSA Office

4625 W Jennifer Street
Suite 109
Fresno, CA 93722
559-276-7494 (phone)
559-276-1791 (fax)

Hours

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Loan Manager

Tom Roberts, FLM

Guaranteed Loan Specialist

Sue Gribben

Farm Loan Staff

Phoua Yang, P.T.

Farm Program Staff

Mildred Jones, P.T.
Bee Payne, P.T.
Christy Villas, P.T.
Joanne Gomez, P.T.
Wanda Medina P.T.
Marie Percy, P.T.
Chris San Nicolas, P.T.
Robert Martinez, P.T.
Nangpay Vang, P.T.
Jon Klassen, P.T.
Annie Lee, P.T.
Sean Gallaher, P.T.
Brianna Wilkenson &
Darci Culler,
CSUF Interns

County Committee

Tad Kozuki, Chairman
Keith Freitas
Jean Errotabere

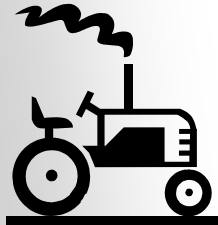
Committee Advisors

Kuldip "Cal" Kaleka
Will Scott Jr.

COUNTY COMMITTEE
MEETS ON THE SECOND
THURSDAY OF EACH
MONTH

Executive Director

Russ L. Friend



Farm Service Agency

FSA UPDATES

July
2006

2006 DIRECT AND COUNTER-CYCLIC PROGRAM (DCP) SIGNUP

Late sign-up deadline for 2006 DCP is September 30, 2006. **Farms enrolled after the June 1, 2006 deadline are subject to a \$100 per-farm late fee.** Producers involved with this program must signup every year to receive payment. Call now to make your appointment.



SPRING PLANTED CROP CERTIFICATION

All spring seeded crop acreage must be reported to the FSA office if you are participating in the Direct and Counter Cyclic Program (DCP) or wish to apply for a crop loan or LDP. **NOTE: This year, we are requiring crop planting dates to complete your certification.** For permanent crops, please give us your best estimate as to when they were planted. For annual crops, we need actual dates. **All certifications must be completed by July 15, 2006. Late certifications may be filed, but a late filing fee will apply.** Please call the FSA office to schedule your appointment.

FAXED SIGNATURES

Certain FSA program applications may be accepted by facsimile (fax). Contact the FSA office if you have questions.

556-276-7494

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Elections will be held in December to choose a representative to serve on the County Committee (COC). FSA is seeking interested producers to be placed on the election ballot. Nominations will be accepted through August 1, 2006.

This election is for Local Administrative Area 3 which includes producers in Fresno County living east of Highway 99. **Nomination forms are available at the FSA office and must be returned or postmarked by August 1, 2006.**

Long-time COC member Tad Kozuki has reached term limits and will not be able to serve the Eastside after his current term expires on December 31, 2006. FSA management and staff certainly appreciate all of the dedication Tad has given Fresno County producers and wish him continued success.

FSA's relationship with farmers and ranchers goes back to the 1930s. At that time, Congress set up a unique system under which Federal farm programs were to be administered locally. Farmers and ranchers who are eligible to participate in these programs elect a three- to five-person county committee, which reviews county office operations and makes some of the decisions on how to apply the programs. This grassroots approach gives farmers and ranchers a much-needed say in how Federal actions affect their communities and their individual operations. All farm owners, operators, tenants and sharecroppers of legal voting age are eligible to serve on the COC and vote in the elections.

THE NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (NAP)

NAP coverage is similar to that provided by Catastrophic Risk Protection Plan (CAT) insurance and is available for commercial crops or agricultural commodities produced for food or fiber for which CAT is not available. NAP coverage is not available for livestock. NAP kicks in when natural disasters result in a catastrophic loss of production or prevented planting of an eligible crop.

Producers who already have coverage on 2006 NAP crops may choose to continue coverage on the same crops for 2007, if the applicable service fee is paid by the application closing date. A new CCC-471, application for coverage, is not required to be signed when applying for continuous coverage of the same crop or crops. The service fee is \$100 per crop with a \$300 maximum fee.

Producers who choose to add or delete a crop from previous year's coverage or change crop shares must file a new CCC-471, with signatures, and pay the service fee.

Producers with 2006 NAP coverage must remember to complete the following to qualify for benefits:

- Timely file acreage reports and keep track of harvested production using acceptable methods. For example, packing house packing records, cash sale records, farmer's market sales records, etc.
- File a Notice of Loss within 15 days of the disaster occurrence or when the loss is apparent.

Crop year 2007	Application Closing Date
Multi Planting - Green Beans	8/1/2006
All other annuals	3/1/2007
Almonds, Apples, Asparagus, Avocados, Caneberries, Cherries, Kiwi, Mint, Nectarines, Olives, Peach Pears, Persimmon, Pistachios, Plums, Pomegranate, Rye Grain, Walnuts	12/15/2006
Onions, Honey	12/1/2006
Fall planted Seed Crops	8/1/2006
Forage Crops	9/1/2006
Value Loss and Controlled Environment Crops.	9/1/2006

MILCX RATES

USDA announced the following 2006 MILCX rates:

October - \$0.00/CWT
 November - \$0.00/CWT
 December - \$0.0408/CWT
 January - \$0.1054/CWT
 February - \$0.1054/CWT
 March - \$0.4080/CWT
 April - \$0.8398/CWT
 May - \$0.9248/CWT
 June - \$0.9996/CWT
 July - \$0.7990/CWT



Dairy producers who have a MILCX contract are reminded that if you wish to change the start month on your contract you must do so prior to 15 days before the beginning of the month you wish to start on. Please contact this office if you have any questions.

GRAIN AND WOOL PRODUCERS LDP FORM

Don't forget that the Farm Service Agency rolled out a new, streamlined process for requesting loan deficiency payments (LDPs) last August. The CCC-633 EZ is a combination of the original CCC-633 and the old, and now abandoned, CCC-709.

By signing the first page of the 633EZ form, producers indicate their intentions to receive LDP benefits. This one page covers all counties and all eligible harvested commodities for the entire crop year for the individual, joint operation or entity identified on the form.

One thing that hasn't changed is the requirement that the form must be signed before beneficial interest in the crop is lost. Once page 1 of the EZ form has been signed, the producer can submit an LDP request by completing page 2 at any time during the loan availability period — before or after losing beneficial interest.

Beginning with the 2006 crop year, CCC-633 EZ and eLDP online requests will be the only methods available to request LDPs.

Contact Chris or Jon at the Fresno FSA office if you have any questions





GET READY FOR EQIP SIGNUP

Are you ready to take steps in the direction of conservation? Let the Natural Resources Conservation Service help.

Starting October 2, applications will be accepted for the 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a cost-share program offered to agricultural producers by the USDA- NRCS. The objective of the EQIP program is to promote agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.

As part of the USDA, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with land owners and agriculture producers, large and small, to conserve their natural resources. NRCS is a non-regulatory agency offering technical and financial assistance to those looking to improve and/or protect soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that assists producers on a cost-share basis to reach conservation goals and meet local, state, and federal regulations.

Fresno County focuses on water, air and range quality, so it is no surprise that our most popular practices are micro-irrigation systems, road oil and chipping. Practices also include conservation tillage and confined animal feeding operations.

During Fiscal Year 2006, the Fresno County NRCS office obligated more than \$2.5 million in EQIP cost-share funds for a variety of conservation projects, and is expected to receive approximately the same amount for the FY 2007 program.

Summer months are a perfect time to get started with designs and eligibility (entity and property) paperwork. Landowners or tenants must have control of the property for the life of the contract period which can be from two to ten years in length.

Agricultural landowners and operators interested in participating in EQIP can apply at their local service center. In Fresno County, the NRCS office is located at 4625 W. Jennifer Ave, Suite 125, Fresno, CA, 93722. Phone: (559) 276-7494, Extension 3.

Applications must be submitted by **December 1, 2006**, to be considered for the 2007 funding cycle. Check FSA newsletters for future signup announcements.

EMERGENCY LOANS AVAILABLE

On June 15, 2006 the Secretary of Agriculture declared 29 California counties eligible for USDA emergency farm loans because of physical and production losses based on damages and losses caused by unprecedented rainfall, severe weather conditions that occurred from December 17, 2005 through April 26, 2006. Fresno County producers who suffered at least a 30% loss of normal production directly related to this event may be eligible for emergency loans. Producers must also:

- Be able to repay the loan and any other loans
- Be unable to obtain credit elsewhere
- Have adequate security and multi-peril crop insurance

Applications must be filed by February 15, 2007. Please contact Fresno FSA Farm Loan Manager Tom Roberts for an appointment.

SPOUSAL SIGNATURES

Husbands and wives may sign documents on behalf of each other for FSA and Commodity Credit Corporation programs in which either has an interest. This option is automatically available unless a written request for exclusion is made to the county office staff by either spouse.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations will be made upon request for individuals with disabilities, vision impairment or hearing impairment. If accommodations are required, please contact the Fresno County FSA office.

Fresno County Farm Service Agency
4625 W Jennifer Street
Suite 109
Fresno, CA 93722-6424

**Important information enclosed about
USDA farm programs. Please read carefully.**

Important Dates and Deadlines	
August 1, 2006	Final day to request farm reconstitutions for crop year 2006
Various Dates	NAP application deadlines. See page 2 for details
NAP Crop Damage Report	No later than 15 days from date of damaging weather occurrence
Prevented Planting Claims	No later than 14 days after the crop insurance final planting date for the prevented crop.
August 1, 2006	COC Election Nomination Form Due
FSA Office Closures September 4, 2006	Labor Day

DIRECT DEPOSIT OF PAYMENTS IS MANDATORY

As of January 1999, all payments issued by the county FSA office will be by direct deposit (electronic funds transfer) to a pre-designated checking or savings account with your financial institution. Forms are available at the FSA office to sign up for direct deposit if you haven't yet. **For those already signed up, it is extremely important that we are notified anytime there is a change in your account number or financial institution.** If we are not notified, future payments can be delayed or lost for a period of time.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from public assistance programs. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's Target Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.